

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-78 are pending in the application.

Claims 19-21, 24, 27-43, 45, 52-54, 56-58, 60, 66-68, 70-72, and 74 are withdrawn from further consideration. Applicants have corrected the claim identifiers herewith.

Claim 10 has been previously cancelled.

Claims 1, 46, 47, 50, 61, 65, and 75 have been amended herewith. Applicants submit no new matter has been provided by way of these amendments.

Applicants note with appreciation the withdrawal of the previous rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

The Examiner has sustained the prior rejections as follows: Claims 50, 51, 59, 61-63 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Kawabata *et al.* Claims 50, 51, 59, and 61-63 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Narimatsu *et al.* (EP 0530729 A1). Claims 1-3, 6-9, 11-16, 44, 49, 50, and 59 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 59, 179, 676. Applicants provide additional arguments in support of their original positions on these rejection herewith based on the additional discussions surrounding the various references.

The following new rejections have been raised:

Claims 1-9, 11-18, 44, and 49 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Kawabata *et al.* (U.S. 5,620,796). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and request withdrawal of same.

Applicants' invention provides polymers at least as described in Claim 1, wherein said polymers are crosslinked by at least one polyfunctional aziridine propionate crosslinker.

Kawabata *et al.* teaches acrylic adhesives. Kawabata does not teach or suggest the polymers of Applicants' invention employing a polyfunctional aziridine propionate

crosslinker, and further having the peel strength values as claimed. All elements of Applicants' invention are not provided by Kawabata. A *prima facie* case of anticipation or one of obviousness has not been established. Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection.

Claims 65 and 73 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kawabata *et al.* (U.S. 5,620,796). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and request withdrawal of same.

Applicants' invention is as provided above.

Kawabata *et al.* is as discussed above. Kawabata does not teach or suggest the polymers of Applicants' invention prepared using the polyfunctional aziridine propionate crosslinker as claimed. A *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established. Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection.

Claims 22, 23, 25, 26, 55, and 69 stand rejected under 5 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kawabata *et al.* (U.S. 5,620,796) in view of Phan *et al.* (U.S. 5,969,032). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and request withdrawal of same.

Applicants' invention is as discussed above.

Kawabata is as discussed above.

Phan teaches latex binders for coatings having a polymerizable surfactant. Phan does not teach or suggest the polyaziridine propionate crosslinkers of Applicants' invention. Further, Phan does not teach or suggest the polymers of Applicants' invention.

Alone or in combination Kawabata and Phan do not teach or suggest the crosslinked polymers of Applicants' invention. A *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established. Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection.

Claims 46-48, 61-63 and 75-77 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Kawabata *et al.* (U.S. 5,620,796) in view of Gutman (U.S. 5,508,107).

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection and requests withdrawal of same.

Applicants' invention is as discussed above.

Kawabata is as discussed above.

Gutman provides pressure sensitive adhesives that are water resistant.

Kawabata and Gutman, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the polymers of Applicants' invention as now claimed. A *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established. Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection.

Claims 1-6, 11-18, 44, and 46-49 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Narimatsu *et al.* (EP 0530729 A1). Claims 7-9, 65, 73, 75-78 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Narimatsu *et al.* (EP 0530729 A1).

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections and request withdrawal of same.

Applicants' invention provides polymers at least as described by Claim 1.

Narimatsu provides pressure sensitive adhesives using an aziridine crosslinker.

Narimatsu does not teach or suggest the polymers of Applicants' invention as now claimed. A *prima facie* case of anticipation or of obviousness has not been established. Applicants request withdrawal of the rejections.

Claims 4, 5, 65, 73, and 78 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 59,179,676 ('676, chemical abstract). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and request withdrawal of same.

Applicants' invention is as discussed above.

The '676 chemical abstract provides for an aziridinyl crosslinker. The '676 abstract does not teach or suggest using a polyfunctional aziridinyl propionate

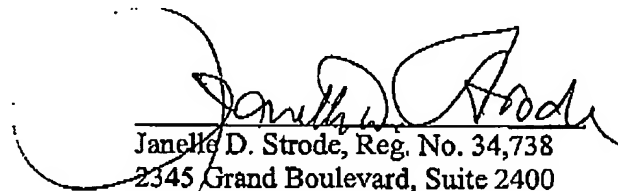
crosslinker. A *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established. Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection.

**CONCLUSIONS**

Should the Examiner believe that issues remain outstanding, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicants' undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and advance this application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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